

RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. ASA HUTCHINSON**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Hospital Week and applaud the efforts of our nation's hospitals. In particular, I want to call attention to the Washington Regional Medical Center, and its efforts to serve the community.

Washington Regional—located in Fayetteville, Arkansas—has recently been awarded the 1999 NOVA award by the American Hospital Association. This award recognizes hospitals for their initiatives for and interaction with the local community. This year, Washington Regional is a recipient of the NOVA award for its commitment to the children of Washington County.

Many community ills occur due to circumstances that are beyond an individual's control. Unfortunately, many of these problems result in chronic disease, disability and often death. Washington Regional is working to reverse that trend through the Kids for Health program. Through this program, the medical center partners with the Washington County school system to teach more than 8,000 children about self-esteem, general health, nutrition, fitness, hygiene, and safety.

The Kids for Health program is so successful that it received a five-year grant from the Harvey and Beatrice Jones Charitable Foundation. This critical program is proving that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud to recognize the Washington Regional Medical Center for its achievements. It is a stellar example of a hospital that makes a difference in its community.

PROVIDING WIC BENEFITS TO  
OVERSEAS MILITARY PERSONNEL

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will put an end to unfair treatment of military personnel stationed overseas and their families. These dedicated personnel who are performing invaluable service to the nation, along with their families, are currently ineligible for supplemental nutrition services which we provide for other citizens.

The Department of Defense estimates that 46,658 women, infants, and children are currently denied benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). That means that military personnel and their families, to whom our nation owes substantial gratitude, are being treated as second-class citizens. They are denied basic services which would be available to them had they not volunteered to serve their country.

As a nation, we are better than that. We are already asking men and women who serve in the military to make significant sacrifices. Those sacrifices should not include the health and well being of their families.

Since its inception, we have seen very clear evidence that participation in WIC has reduced the number of low birthweight babies and birth defects caused by poor nutrition during pregnancy. In addition, the nutritional supplements received by infants and young children help prevent health problems related to poor nutrition. This small investment in nutritional assistance for individual participants saves our country a great deal in health care costs and costs related to special education services.

The WIC program also includes an education component which is key to the program's success. These nutrition and education benefits should be available to all U.S. citizens, regardless of where they are residing.

Present law authorizes the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program similar to WIC to provide special supplemental food benefits to military personnel overseas. However, current law relies heavily on the transfer of funds and commodities from the Secretary of Agriculture to operate this program. These funds have never been made available. Therefore, the legislation I am introducing today would call on the Secretary of Defense to use funds available for the Department of Defense to carry out this program. It would also require the Department of Agriculture to provide technical assistance to the Department of Defense to insure program quality.

Mr. Speaker, I believe very strongly that our military personnel overseas should have access to the same nutritional support as families residing in the United States. My legislation would enable the Department of Defense to provide these services. I would encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, which insures that our overseas military personnel and their families reap the same benefits from program participation.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN L. VINGER  
OF DODGEVILLE, WISCONSIN

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War I veteran Martin L. Vinger, of Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Mr. Vinger has been recognized by the French government in solemn tribute to his World War I service. He valiantly served on French soil to aid in the liberation of France, and for his service he has been awarded The National Order of the Legion of Honor, the highest military honor that can be bestowed upon non-French soldiers.

With an extraordinary sense of dedication and commitment, Mr. Vinger enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 11, 1918 at the age of sixteen. He then departed for France in July of that year. He returned to the United States in February, 1919 and was discharged the following month.

At the time of his award, Mr. Vinger stated from his own wartime experiences that we Americans today must remember to keep our democracy alive, "because if we lose it, it will be a long time getting it back." One can only imagine what a different world we might be living in today had not Mr. Vinger and other brave young men and women served on the many fronts of the "war to end all wars." It is

with sincere gratitude and the utmost respect that I rise today to ask that the Congress of the United States join with me in recognizing the selfless service of Mr. Martin L. Vinger.

A TRIBUTE TO DON KINGSTON

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Kingston, who is retiring this year from Eldorado High School in Eldorado, Illinois. Donald J. Kingston was born on October 28, 1931, one of eight children. His father passed away when he was just four years old leaving his mother with eight children during the Depression. Don felt strongly that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal Programs were instrumental in pulling his family through the hard times. He also believes that the sports programs in his local high school were the only reason he completed high school, a very revealing fact when you look at how dedicated he has been to EHS sports over the last forty years.

Back in the fall of 1956, while in his last year of law school, EHS head football coach Coach Adams, asked Don to be assistant coach for the EHS football team. Instead of going on to practice law, Don accepted the assistant coaching job. A year later when Coach Adams retired, Don became the head coach of the football team. Don Kingston has given the last forty-two years of his life to being both an outstanding educator and coach at Eldorado High School. Mr. Kingston has taught many subjects at Eldorado High School, including physical education, driver's education, English and geography. Mr. Kingston has also coached the football, basketball and track teams. The best teams he has ever coached, according to Don, were the 1968 Eagles Football Team and the 1976 Eagles Basketball Team, of which his son Kevin was a member.

Mr. Speaker, what is most special about my opportunity now to congratulate Don and his wife Wanda, is the fact that I have known them all of my life and truly appreciate their commitment to public service. They raised two wonderful children; Kevin and Valerie, who have served as role models to the community, and I know that if Kevin were still with us today he would be proud to see his father reach this stage in his life. Don has been my teacher, my fellow elected official, my supporter, professional colleague, but most importantly, my friend! Don, we wish you God's speed and congratulations on a fabulous career in shaping the lives of our young people.

FREMONT'S IRVINGTON HIGH  
SCHOOL NAMED 1999 DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOOL BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fremont's Irvington High School. The